



## **Standards for better health Process for declaration of compliance**

### **1. Introduction**

The Healthcare commission is the regulatory body which provides the framework of quality and performance standards upon which NHS quality ratings are determined.

The HCC standards are arranged in 7 domains:

- Safety
- Clinical and cost effectiveness
- Governance
- Patient focus
- Accessible and responsive care
- Care, environment and amenities and
- Public health

There are 24 core standards within these seven domains.

### **2. Process for self declaration and progress to date**

The HCC expects NHS organisations to undertake a comprehensive process for self declaration relating to the seven domains and 24 core standards. Responsibility for the declaration rests with the director of nursing and governance and her team. Each criterion is assigned a lead person who must compile a file of evidence upon which a judgement about our compliance can be made.

These files were subject to an unannounced internal inspection overseen by our internal auditor in February. This process ensures an independent scrutiny of the process and the evidence.

The declaration allows for contributions from external organisations such as Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and LINKs (though the HCC have accepted informally that input from LINKs may be limited this year) and from governors. An event is being held at the trust on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 inviting key stakeholders to attend. One of the aims of this event is to share information regarding our submission for the Standards for Better Health assessment.

Information about our evidence will be presented to our governor committees at their meetings in April. This will allow governors to contribute to the declaration process and submit a statement as part of the process. The declaration will be considered by the Governance Committee of the board on

27<sup>th</sup> March and approved by the board on 24<sup>th</sup> April for submission to the Healthcare Commission by noon 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

### **3. Conclusion**

This paper sets out the planned process for the 2008/9 declaration on standards for better health. Following our self-assessment, it is our intention, as has been the case in the past three years, to declare full compliance with the expectations of the Commission.

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